



SITE: Florida Phosphate
BREAK: 13.4
OTHER: V. 2

Department of Justice

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W.R. Grace to Pay Toward Cleanup of Hazardous Waste Sites

WASHINGTON—W.R. Grace, a global supplier of specialty chemicals, has agreed to a \$34 million bankruptcy settlement for cleanup costs at 32 Superfund sites across the country, the Justice Department announced today. The action settles a bankruptcy claim brought by the federal government to recover money for Superfund site cleanup.

The company has corporate headquarters in Columbia, Md., and employees in nearly 40 countries. The company manufactures construction chemicals, building materials and chemical additives, among other things.

"This settlement will make money available to substantially help the cleanup of many Superfund sites around the country," said Ronald J. Tenpas, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "This settlement is a good outcome for both the taxpayers and the environment."

"Bankruptcy is not a safe haven to avoid environmental responsibilities," said Catherine McCabe, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "EPA will keep pursuing companies who pollute the environment."

The federal government determined that the company contributed to the contamination at the sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly referred to as Superfund. The settlement will be used to reimburse EPA for past costs and to pay for future costs associated with cleaning up at hazardous waste sites in 18 states. Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the most complex uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites in the country.

W.R. Grace and 61 affiliated companies filed for bankruptcy in April 2001. In March 2003, EPA filed claims against the company to recover past and future cleanup costs. Upon approval of the Bankruptcy Court, EPA will have an allowed claim in Grace's bankruptcy. Grace's plan of reorganization will determine the extent to which allowed claims will be paid.

The settlement agreement will be lodged in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and is subject to court approval after a 30-day public comment period.

Today's settlement agreement does not resolve environmental claims related to the cleanup of the Libby Asbestos Site in Libby, Mont., and the Curtis Bay Site near Baltimore. These claims are still pending.

The Superfund sites covered in the settlement agreement include:

Acton Plant Site, Acton, Mass.



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Zonolite Company/W.R. Grace Site, Ellwood City, Pa.

Zonolite Company/W.R. Grace Site, New Castle, Pa.

Zonolite Company/Grace Site, Hamilton Township, N.J.

Zonolite Company/W.R. Grace Site, Prince George's County, Md.

Zonolite Company/W.R. Grace Site, Wilder, Ky.

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